



WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS

Vol. I, No. 4 *An Organization Promoting the Best Interests of the Profession by United Action*

3-4
AUG. 1933

100 Architects Romp at Annual Stag at Lake Nehmabin

One hundred architects, gathered together at the Second Annual Stag Outing of the State Association on July 15th at U. F. Durner's summer home on upper Nehmabin, testified by their presence and enthusiasm that the bonds of friendship and co-operation within the organization are becoming firmer. The outing, judged by any standards, was a tremendous success, but if any further proof is necessary, the fact that there was an increase of about 30 per cent in attendance over the number present last year should suffice. Over 30 from outside of Milwaukee were present, indicating wide-spread interest.

According to Schedule

The program was run according to schedule, beginning with the "Grand Opening of the Kegs" at 2:00 P. M. Two baseball diamonds were put into use, as architects from all parts of the state proceeded to acquire a fine case of "Charlie-Horse" from such unaccustomed exercise. Big league baseball scouts evidently are not judicious in their selections of proper sources for material, for it was quite apparent that marvelous talent for baseball, to be found among the architects, has been overlooked. The fact that there were fourteen men on the field of each side did not in any way intimidate the batters, one of the games ending with a score of 38 to 29. Some very neat decisions were made by the fielders (8 on each side). Given a choice of whether to put down a stein of beer or chase after a fly, the general decision was "to hell with those hard batters." The "bleacher" critics were loud and vociferous in their rooting as well as booing, occasionally moistening their

(Continued on page 4, column 2)

OPPENHAMER HEADS DISTRICT No. 3 GROUP

At a meeting of the Third District of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects, held on July 19 at Green Bay, W. A. Oppenhamer, Green Bay, was elected president of the Third District, comprising the counties of Brown, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Outagamie and Shawano.

Considerable time was spent discussing ethical practice between the different architects. The reports of the progress of the different state committees was read and discussed and following that the question of competition from many building material firms who furnish so-called "free plans" was taken up. It was the opinion of the majority present that the problems arising from this "free plan" service of some companies should be handled by the state association as a body because the practice was not local but statewide.

Most architects present reported an increased public interest in new work and while no firm seemed to be rushed with work, they all expected that because of the gradual rise in building material prices, there would be more work by fall.

—Press Gazette, Green Bay.

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

MARK YOUR CALENDAR OCTOBER 20—OSHKOSH

AUGUST CALENDAR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9th—

State Association Executive Board Meeting, 12:15 P. M., City Club, Milwaukee.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31st—

Madison Chapter, A. I. A. Meeting.

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Plan now to attend the Second Annual Convention of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects to be held at Oshkosh on October 20th.

RECEIVED
AUG 7 1933
TOE A. I. A.
THE OCTAGON
District No. 7
Hold Exhibition of
Completed Work

The Chairman of District No. 7 requests that we organize an architectural exhibit to be held before the convention in October. The committee has, therefore, selected September 1, 1933, as the entrance date for all exhibits.

This exhibit will be organized under the rules as outlined in the first number of the WISCONSIN ARCHITECT and, therefore, the exhibits will be under the groups of "Residential," comprising one and two family dwellings, and "Public Buildings," comprising schools, churches, museums, galleries, clubs, government and municipal buildings, etc.

Each exhibitor may submit as many photographs of as many completed buildings as he may desire. Perspectives, rendered drawings and models may be shown in conjunction with the photographs, but the award will be based solely on the photographs of the completed work. The photographs, if unframed, shall be mounted on heavy card-board to facilitate hanging. Each exhibit shall be anonymous and shall be marked on the back with its location and with an identifying symbol. Each exhibitor will enclose with his exhibit an envelope bearing his symbol on the outside and his name and address within. Photographs may only be exhibited for award in the district in which the architect has his place of business, although the building may have been built in any part of the state of Wisconsin.

All architects in the District are strongly urged to prepare their exhibits and have them sent in care of the Exhibition Committee at 720 E. Mason Street, from where they will be taken to the place of exhibit, which will be chosen at a later date.—A. Z.

WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

Official Publication

The State Association of Wisconsin Architects

An Organization promoting the best interests of the architectural profession by United Action.

AUGUST 1933

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District Secretaries

- Your District Secretary is an Editor of this magazine . . . you can help him a great deal by giving him the news of your locality.

Federal Financing Is Promised for Community Developments, Slum Removal

This contribution from Architect Leon M. Gurda, Milwaukee Inspector of Buildings, tells of means by which community improvements may be made through federal aid. His suggestion that architects interest themselves in community development parallels a similar resolution passed at the last convention of the Association.

AN INVENTORY OF MILWAUKEE

By LEON M. GURDA

•

Under the federal emergency relief measures, municipalities can accomplish many civic projects that have a direct and beneficial influence upon the community. I refer to municipalities only in the sense that this act requires governmental control of projects for which federal aid is desired.

Federal aid can be secured for projects such as low cost housing for low wage earners, slum clearance, rehabilitation of blighted areas, and for public improvements, such as construction of highways, public utilities, etc. All of such work is to serve two purposes: that of employment of men, and improving living conditions within cities, thereby promoting the general welfare of the people. I need not go into the details of the various phases of the federal act and the opportunities it provides for public improvements, for this is generally well known to the architects.

This act encourages cities to take stock of their situation and conditions by promoting surveys which will disclose accurate information as to the needs for housing, rehabilitation of areas, transportation, recreation, parks, and other public improvements.

Milwaukee, like many other cities, is now engaged in this activity and has a Housing Commission, analyzing the housing conditions of our city; also, other agencies studying the needs for various public improvements. As the various independent agencies complete their surveys and studies and formulate their recommendations, obviously such data should be coordinated in the interest of securing an efficient and judicious program or plan for community improvements, all based upon the general welfare of our people.

In these activities the architects can

be of great assistance, being fully qualified to speak authoritatively on these civic matters. To me it appears that the architects should take a deep interest in promoting the welfare of our community.

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

Owners Must Learn "Cost Vs. Value"

The following is a contribution from F. E. Johnson, Superior, on a subject too rarely discussed by the profession.

In the preparation of plans the thing that nearly all owners seem to be mainly interested in is "What is it going to cost?" This, in my mind, does not seem to be of prime importance. The main consideration should be "What can I get for my money?"

This puts it squarely up to the architect and should result in the architect's contribution of a building which possesses more character, permanence, flexibility, and efficiency. These are the direct results of ability and experience in preparing plans and specification, securing reliable bids, awarding favorable contracts, honest supervision, prompt delivery, and, in short, steering the project through to completion in the most satisfactory manner. This should bring about a better condition for the architectural profession.

The prospective builders would then more fully appreciate what an architect can do by making every dollar earn more and would find that the surest way to save is to pay for architectural services.

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

- Elmer A. Johnson, Milwaukee architect, formerly a member of the firm of Martin Tullgren & Sons Company, has opened his own office at 783 N. Jefferson Street, Milwaukee. His telephone number is DAly 4664.

Architectural Practice and the Law

By ATTY. CARL G. KUELTHAU

This is the second of a series on questions of Architectural Law, supplementing those appearing in our last issue. Favorable comments from all parts of the state indicate that this is as popular a department as the Question and Answer Section.

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VALUE IN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT MEANS CONTRACT VALUE
•

Explanation:

In practically every construction contract the contractor receives payment in periodical installments. In some contracts payment is designated at certain stages of the work, in others payment is designated at a certain per cent of the *value* of the work done and material furnished during a specified preceding period, the amount to be determined by the architect and to be paid upon the issuance of an architect's certificate.

Where the provision is for a certain per cent of the *value* of the work, disputes have arisen as to the meaning of the term "*value*." Ordinarily the term "*value*" is construed by the courts to mean market value, but where used in construction contracts it is construed to mean contract value, that is, the proportional value of the work and material based upon the contract price. In construction contracts the word "*value*" therefore means the value of the material and work furnished, based upon the contract price and not upon the market value of the same, if that differs from the contract value.

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

•
DECISION OF ARBITER UNDER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS IS FINAL
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Explanation:

In construction contracts in order to avoid delay through disputes which arise during the course of the contract, it is usual and customary to designate a party whose decision shall be final on the interpretation of the contract and on the work done pursuant to the contract. Many times the architect is so designated and sometimes in municipal contracts a board or commission is named.

Such a provision in a contract is perfectly valid and will be enforced by our courts. Our Supreme Court has held

many times that where matters are thus left to the decision of an architect or other arbiter, his decision upon the matter in dispute is final unless impeached for fraud, accident or mistake. The mistake here referred to for which an architect's or other arbiter's decision will be set aside, is not a mere error in judgment as to the quality of the work or the responsibility for defects therein upon conflicting evidence and facts, but it means an unintentional misapprehension or ignorance of some material fact and such mistake must be clearly established by the evidence and be so gross and palpable as to be equivalent in its effect to a dishonest, fraudulent or arbitrary action on the part of the arbiter.

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

A CLEARING HOUSE FOR MATERIAL MEN

A number of American cities have central material exhibits, to facilitate the selection of materials and equipment.

It has been suggested that Milwaukee have such an arrangement and that the Builders Exchange of Milwaukee would be the logical place for housing such a project. Not alone could materials be displayed, but a complete list of all materials and apparatus, together with the names of the manufacturers, could be on file so that complete information would be available for the architects at a moment's notice.

We do not know how this clearing house idea could be developed, but we would be very glad to have the readers' opinions on the proposal.

File Your Wisconsin Architect

It is your personal record and reference for past and future events, official acts, notices, programs, etc.

The State Association of Wisconsin Architects

EVERYTHING GOING MODERN

That the Chicago Fair will undoubtedly influence architectural design and color in the immediate future is amply demonstrated by the growing number of material supply houses "going modern or color."

The latest piece of literature received by the WISCONSIN ARCHITECT indicating this tendency is "A Colorful Message" issued by a Milwaukee manufacturer of mortar color, showing a panoramic view of the Fair in its striking colors.

When even mortar, cement, drives, walks, tennis courts, and, as they say, any concrete surface, is a logical and fitting vehicle for expressing our color consciousness, it would seem that it behooves all of us to "do" the Fair so that we may decide for ourselves whether Mr. Cram was right or wrong. (See July issue.)

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

• J. E. Hennen, well known Fond du Lac (Wis.) architect, has been appointed a member of the police and fire board of that city.

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FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT

PERSONALS

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

- Henry Auler of Oshkosh is getting things started for the October Convention of our Association in his city.
- Bill Redden, expert picnic arranger, saw to it that everyone had enough to eat and drink.
- Fitzhugh Scott, Secretary, wants to make a good report at the convention. Help him by forwarding your dues.
- Rose, Jr., is quite an expert on aeronautics, flies his own plane.
- Brust, Jr., does much better at architectural rendering than at baseball.
- Leenhouts, Jr., ditto.
- The Eschweilers, Jr.'s, ditto.
- Guthrie, Jr., ditto (substitute horse-shoes for baseball).
- Riemenscheider was all set to play golf at the picnic, but forgot his clubs.
- Nearly every Madison architect was at the picnic.
- Ben Brielmaier is the best singer of German songs in the Association.

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100 ARCHITECTS AT STAG

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

throats with beer so as to render more effective and devastating their vocal "blandishments."

Horseshoe found many new enthusiasts as lucky "ringers" were tossed by the amateur of the barnyard sport. Several of lesser successful adversaries wanted the experts to present a set of blueprints showing how to hold the shoes, but these simple requests resulted only in raucous ridicule.

200 Old Maids

Swimmers enjoyed the chutes and diving facilities to the extreme, it having been necessary to call them at least eight times before they would come out of the water to be a part of the group picture the photographer was trying to take. After having broken down almost every bench U. F. had on his place, the architects finally gathered in some semblance of a group for the picture. A scathing reference, on the part of the camera man, comparing the exuberance of the assembly to a group of 200 old maids in the presence of Clark Gable, failed to quell their spirits. In some manner the picture was taken, between gulps of beer.

The supper, under the stately trees of Mr. Durner's truly lovely and park-like premises, was an affair that will long abide in our memories as a most pleasant recollection of a perfect sequence to a summer day's activity. Wieners, sausage and ham, roasted over a sizzling grille right out in the open, assailed the nostrils with the most delightful aroma. Potato salad, pickles, buns, cake, etc., etc., made the long tables creak with their weight, and abdomens stretch with their delicious contents.

After much gorging and contented sighing the feasting designers leaned back to listen to Leo Brielmaier's discussion on the progress of the Association, the rapt attention of his listeners indicating that even though tired after a strenuous day and sleepy after a great feeding, architects are still interested in anything pertinent to the good of their profession.

Outing Was "Best Ever"

One by one the stags began to depart as darkness descended, many having hundreds of miles to cover before home and fireside would be in sight.

Others stayed late in a valiant attempt to prevent the remaining refreshments at U. F.'s "outdoor filling station" from going to waste. Strains of "Sweet Adeline," "The Old Oaken Bucket," "Schnitzelbank," and "Long, Long Trail Ainding" faded into the distance as those departing vowed that this stag was the "best ever."

To U. F. Durner, the State Association of Wisconsin Architects extends its most hearty appreciation and thanks for his graciousness and hospitality. To the Picnic Committee, comprised of Wm. Redden, Chairman, Ralph H. Kloppenburg, John P. Bruecker, Geo. Zagel, John J. Rowland, and Roland C. Kurtz, goes our thanks for having so thoroughly arranged a completely successful picnic.—A. Z.

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

AROUND THE CORNER

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end;
Yet days go by and weeks rush on,
And before I know it a year is gone.
And I never see my old friend's face;
For Life is a swift and terrible race.
He knows I like him just as well
As in the days when I rang his bell
And he rang mine. We were younger then;
And now we are busy, tired men—
Tired with playing a foolish game;
Tired with trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow," I say, "I will call on Jim,
Just to show that I'm thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes—and tomorrow goes;
And the distance between us grows and grows.

Around the corner — yet miles away.

"Here's a telegram, sir."
"Jim died today."
And that's what we get — and deserve in the end.

Around the corner, a vanished friend.
—Charles Hansen Towne.

THE DRAFTSMAN'S CORNER

By ALBERT W. ICKE
CALLS FOR ATELIER NEWS

It is intended to make this section a regular part of all future issues of this publication and to relate the activities of various draftsmen's groups throughout Wisconsin. There are several organizations in this state, composed of draftsmen engaged in architectural study, that are doing things of interest to many of us.

The writer of this column would appreciate hearing from organizations of this kind, including the ateliers of Mr. Reilly of Madison, and Mr. Sutherland of Fond du Lac.

The Registration and Examination of Wisconsin Architects

By ARTHUR PEABODY

Arthur Peabody, F. A. I. A., State Architect, architect for the U. of W., internationally celebrated author of architectural works, past president of Madison Chapter, A. I. A., etc., etc., and Secretary of the Wisconsin Board of Examiners of Architects and Civil Engineers, writes an article of exceptional interest to the profession of our state. This article is of great value as a reference for questions on Transfer, Registration, Examination, Pre-requisite Training, Exemption, Temporary Permits, Renewals and Use of Seal. It should be safely filed away for future use.

Now that the exemption period provided by the statute has expired, the registration of architects is based upon one of several forms of examination, and future certificates will read "Registered by Examination." There are two exceptions to this rule.

Under the first, graduates of recognized architectural schools in which a four years' course of instruction is required for a diploma may obtain registration after three years of subsequent experience in architects' offices.

It was at first intended that such registrations should be recognized as equal in every way to registration by examination. For this reason the framers of the first registration laws, in order to emphasize the theory that graduation plus three years' experience was a certain evidence of preparedness, were quite explicit in declaring that "in lieu of all examination" such candidates were by education and experience entitled to registration. The expression was unfortunate in that it dwelt upon the fact that no examination should take place in connection with this form of registration.

The National Council of Registration Boards, in the study of conditions as set down in the law, determined that registrations granted in the absence of examination were not registrations by examination and therefore fell into the class of registrations by exemption.

For this reason, and because it is quite probable that a candidate graduated from an architectural school, having had three years' subsequent experience, may easily pass the class examination, such men are usually advised to take examination and be registered on this basis.

Registration By Transfer

The other exception occurs in connection with registration by transfer from other states. In so far as Wisconsin and a number of other states are concerned, registrations by transfer fall into the class of exemption registrations, although based upon examination in some other state.

Persons registered by exemption in other states cannot obtain transfer to Wisconsin. They are obliged to apply for and obtain registration by examination in their home state as a prerequisite to obtaining transfer to Wisconsin. The person so transferred is held responsible by his state of original registration which, if revoked, would automatically revoke his registration in other states. While this has not been put to the test as yet, in Wisconsin it is probable that such a result would follow. Registrations of this type are described in certificates as "by transfer."

Registrations by transfer to Wisconsin cannot be employed to obtain transfer from Wisconsin to some other state. The registrant is under the necessity of going back to his own state for certifications. In this way each state is responsible for its own registrants.

If it were not so, an architect whose registration was, in Illinois, for example, and transferred to Wisconsin, would be in position to defy Illinois, although revoked for cause, and to proceed as if no revocation had taken place.

Where registered in another state by exemption, a candidate who has acquired residence in Wisconsin may apply directly to the Wisconsin Board for class examination. States not members of the National Council may assist their registrants in obtaining registration in Wisconsin by giving information as to

qualifications, reputation, and so forth.

Transfer Through the National Council

Architects registered by examination in other states, whose requirements are not lower than those of Wisconsin, and which are members of the National Council of Registration Boards find the offices of this organization of assistance in obtaining transfer.

The procedure is to apply to the Council and fill out their Council Brief, stating qualifications in particular. This document is forwarded to the Examining Board of the state to which transfer is desired. The examination of the brief usually results in registration by transfer without the necessity of personal appearance before the state board at a set time of meeting.

Immediately upon receipt the brief is mailed about to the separate board members, who indicate their approval by signature, returning the document to the secretary, who then issues a temporary permit to practice. This permit is valid up to the time of the regular meeting of the board, when formal registration is granted and the name of the

(Continued on page 6, column 1)

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REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS

By ARTHUR PEABODY

(Continued from page 5, column 3)

registrant placed upon the roster of registered architects.

Under this expedient delay is avoided as well as the expense of the candidate in attending a meeting of the board, which also would occasion loss of time from business.

The charge of the Council amounts to a fee of \$20.00. The fee for the certificate is fixed at \$10.00. This may be compared with the cost of direct registration where the total fee is \$15.00.

Recurring to the matter of examinations, two forms exist at present.

The first is called class examination, and is given most frequently to men who are not as yet in practice. Admission to this examination is surrounded by the limitations of the statute. (Chap. 486, 101, 31, (5) (a) 1, 2). Section (5) (a) 1, requires satisfactory evidence that he or she has acquired a thorough knowledge of sound construction, building hygiene, architectural design and mathematics.

Two, satisfactory evidence of at least five years' practical experience in the design and construction of buildings. The interpretation of 1 is the class examination; of 2 a specific record of five years' experience.

A certain credit is given for college work in computing the required five years' experience. Otherwise the requirement is for five actual years of training in architects' offices.

Character of the Class Examination

The obvious intent of examination is that men shall demonstrate definite qualifications to practice. For this reason abstract questions are avoided.

The first problem in the examination is to design and plan some certain building selected by the board.

This may be a small bank, a club house, apartment, or other building frequently met in architectural practice.

The style of architecture is generally dictated or, in cases, some freedom in the choice of style is allowed. A partial schedule of rooms is given, with the intention that the candidate will supply the usual accessories of modern buildings. Drawings of plans and elevations are required, following the custom in

ordinary competition drawings. The building must comply with the State Building Code in a general way.

The cost, estimated by cubage and unit prices, is required to be stated. Excellence in drawing, coloring, etc., is taken into account in grading the problem.

Two days' time is allotted for this item. A day's work on structural problems is required. These consist of computations of steel girders, columns, etc., occurring in architectural practice.

Similar problems in concrete construction are included in the examination. The solution of roof trusses and the like, by graphic statics, follows.

These two subjects constitute the major elements of the examination. Each is credited with 35 points as the perfect mark. Failure in either subject involves re-examination. The two remaining days are given to the drawing of architectural ornament, answering questions in history of architecture, business relations, utilities. On the last afternoon an oral quiz is held on the examination as a whole. The perfect mark on each of these minor subjects is six points, making a total of 100 points.

The minimum passing mark on the examination is 70 points, of which the problems in architectural design and engineering must arrive at 24½ points each, to avoid re-examination.

To a person of meager education and experience the examination appears formidable.

Graduates of architectural schools who have had little or no practical experience in offices find it equally difficult.

It is not frequent that a man less than

twenty-eight years of age is successful, whether a graduate or one who has grown up in the office of some architect. There seems a certain maturity of mind and hand needed to attempt the problem, after which the exam appears to be only what is reasonable.

Senior Examinations

It has happened to a number of architects that their original registrations, especially those by the previous board, were by exemption. The result proved unsatisfactory, however, when business offered in Illinois and other states. Exemption men could not obtain transfer to the state in question.

The way out was to appear before the Wisconsin Board for senior examination, which to men of good reputation and long practice was given and registration by examination followed.

At the present time this examination is less common.

Senior examination requires a record of at least ten years' independent practice of architecture, the submission of several plans of important buildings,

(Concluded on Next Page)

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and the oral questioning of the board on subjects usual to practice.

Such a showing, together with letters from references, especially architects and clients, ordinarily satisfies the board and results in registration by examination.

This examination is available to architects from states having no registration laws or to men having acquired residence in Wisconsin and being able to meet the conditions surrounding senior registration.

Renewal of Registrations

This subject has given much thought to the Wisconsin Board of Examiners of architects and civil engineers; and in order to clarify the matter appeal was made to the attorney general, who ruled as follows:

"The intention of the legislature was to establish a two year period as the life of a license." This created a license year beginning August 1st and ending July 1st, following.

"Architects' certificates, issued prior to the act in question (Chap. 486, Laws of 1931) will expire on July 31, 1932." This affected the certificates issued by the previous Board of Examiners of Architects, and made necessary the demand for renewal on or before July 31, 1932.

The board, in its wisdom, preferred to serve such architects with new certificates, rather than single renewal cards, in this way bringing all architects under the operation of the present registration law. Other registrations granted by the present board were subject to the same interpretation of the attorney general. On this basis, certificates issued subsequent to July 31, 1932, and previous to July 31, 1932, expired on July 31, 1933.

The same ruling applies to registrations granted in subsequent license years.

To architects and civil engineers renewing before July 31, 1933, renewal cards have been issued upon payment of the renewal fee of \$5.00.

It will be noted that failure to renew registrations by July 31st of the year in which the certificate expires involves a penalty of fifty cents per month up to the point where the penalty reaches the sum of \$5.00 additional to the renewal fee.

It involves also prohibition to practice until the renewal is completed.

Registrants' Seals and Their Use

Rule 12 of the Board of Examiners of Architects and Civil Engineers requires the possession and use of a personal seal, which shall be applied to all maps, plans, diagrams or other drawings and on all specifications. The board has ruled that the impression on the first sheet of bound sets of drawings and upon the first page of bound sets of specifications will be sufficient. The board has ruled also that the use of seals under conditions which defeat the purpose of the act cannot be tolerated. The registrant is to impress his seal only upon drawings and documents prepared by him or persons in his employ working under his direction and authority.

Any venal use of the seal makes the guilty participant liable to revocation of his certificate.

The date on the seal shows the period for which it is valid. Upon the expiration of this period and upon renewal or reign the date on the seal is necessarily changed to indicate the new period.

The form and lettering on the seal is dictated by the board. Changes by the registrant are not permissible except by permission.

The reason for exacting requirements is to preserve the office of the seal as a reliable indicator of the status of the person in question, and to prevent the abuse of this ready evidence of registration.

The purchase of seals from a firm in Milwaukee, as mentioned by the board, is advantageous in regard to price. The board has no interest in the matter otherwise, and seals may be obtained elsewhere at will. Renewals of seals may be obtained as convenient.

KOHN IS NAMED AS HOUSING DIRECTOR

Washington, D. C.—Organization of the public works administration was completed with the creation of a housing division to study and encourage low cost housing projects and a planning board to co-ordinate the public works program with the future in mind.

Ickes announced that Robert D. Kohn of New York, former president of the American Institute of Architects, will head the housing division, with N. Max Dunning, now with the reconstruction corporation, as assistant director.

Two small allocations were announced, \$851,000 for a prison building program and \$675,000 for construction in the Panama canal zone.

—Milwaukee Journal.

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

FEES

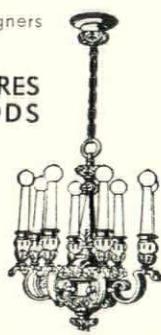
The Practice Committee is drafting a code for fair practice which will embody architects' minimum fees. The committee will report their recommendations at the next meeting of the Executive Board and an article will appear in the September issue.

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The House That Ann Built

This is the second installment of the series that recently appeared in the Milwaukee Journal. Get out your July issue and continue.

By LEIGH HUNT

Dear Ann:

Specifications are long, dull, drawn out written descriptions and orders. They're absolutely lacking in human interest and the only thing that could possibly make you wade through one is the fact that it will be dealing with your own home. Therefore, you'll eat it up. Every single word, dry though it may be.

I jotted down some paragraphs to give you an idea. Take this one for instance:

"All flooring shall be side and end matched (tongue and grooved sides and ends) and hollow backed and no bearing for floors shall be more than 16 inches on center."

Have you any idea why such a paragraph should be injected? Uncle Charles says that if it is done like that the floor won't squeak. If it isn't you're liable to have a squeaky floor. And what could be more annoying?

The architect stands for fair and impartial enforcement of the terms of the specifications covering workmanship and consequently the client may expect only workmanship of quality.

And so, Ann, you've had a lecture on specifications and proper workmanship. When there are other things you don't understand don't hesitate to call for help. Always at your command,

MADGE.

Dear Ann: I received your very enthusiastic letter. Now I hate to put a damper on your plans, but I must.

Your one great desire, now, is to build a California house. That was exactly what I wanted to do after my first western trip, but I didn't and I shall tell you why. No need for going to Uncle Charles with this problem. I took it up with him several years ago so feel that I am qualified to answer you.

The winters and summers in Wisconsin are, for example, of extreme, ten to thirty below and ninety to one hundred above zero. In one case, you have rainy

weather, dry weather and heat, and in the other case you have snow, sleet and ice and penetrating cold.

Of course, you have to be comfortable in both the winter and the summer, and so you must select materials which will both exclude heat and cold. Rain and heat and cold and ice are so hard on most materials that you should be very careful in selecting the right ones for your house.

The power of frost to move things is pretty well known, and when once they are moved and warm weather comes with its rain, leaks generally result.

If you have an architect design your house, his long training and experience will have taught him to select materials which will give long wear with little expense of maintenance and yet will not spoil the design which you have selected for your new home.

There is another consideration which my uncle told me about at the time and that is fire. He said that in many cases fireproof or fire resistance materials might be available which would reduce the cost of fire insurance and give you a feeling of security that might be well worth the slight extra cost, if any.

He is a great believer in using materials of known long life in places where they can not be seen but which would cost considerable if they had to be replaced and might be even more costly if they were forgotten altogether. This applies most particularly to sheet metal work and roofing, for you know that all parts of a roof are not exposed to the weather in the same way.

The use of weather strips will keep out dust and dirt in the summer and

draughts and cold in the winter. In one case saving on your house cleaning expenses and the other hour heating bill.

The waterproofing of foundations either on the outside or the inside or both insures a dry basement, just as insulation on the walls and roof make a house more livable.

He once told me that no matter how strongly the floors of a house might be constructed they must be insulated to keep the noises from above from coming through.

Uncle Charles often remarked that if people who build houses knew the little difference in cost between one grade of material and another. MADGE.

(To Be Continued)

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

GOVERNMENT FINANCING

Leon Gurda, building inspector for Milwaukee, has contributed an article entitled "Inventory of Milwaukee," which is very timely and it is hoped that in our September issue we will have some facts which will aid the architects in participating in the Industrial Recovery Act.

— OSHKOSH — OCTOBER 20th —

DE GELLEKE NOT ON Q-A SECTION COMMITTEE

The WISCONSIN ARCHITECT, in the July issue, mistakenly represented Gerrit De Gelleke as a member of the Question and Answer Section Committee. This committee is comprised of the following:

Peter Brust, Chairman
Harry Bogner
Alexander C. Guth
Carl Eschweiler
Roy Papenthien

**NOT FOR MANY MORE YEARS WILL A
CONVENTION BE AS IMPORTANT TO THE
PROFESSION AS
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